WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 9, NO. 2 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JUNE 1998

"Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves." Abraham Lincoln

It's Just The Beginning

Slade Gorton Withdraws His Anti-Tribal Sovereignty Act

Arthur J. Miller

From the NORTHWEST LEONARD PELTIER SUPPORT NETWORK STATEMENT ON SENATOR SLADE GORTON

Senator Slade Gorton has withdrawn his so-called "American Indian Equal Justice Act" which would limit tribal sovereignty. Should we view this as a victory? We do not think so. The following are the reasons for our conclusion:

1. Sen. Slade Gorton has a very long history of anti-tribal activities. He knows what he is doing and he has stated a number of times that his goal is the elimination of tribal sovereignty and tribal treaty rights. He knows that he cannot accomplish his goal with one big sweep. Rather, he is trying to do it by piece work. He is going after tribal money. He knows that such things as taxes and lawsuits are very hard to build a strong opposition to. And that if he can drain tribal money with taxes and lawsuits the First Nations will have a hard time resisting his next moves.

2. Many people view Sen. Gorton as one individual with his own agenda. The fact is that Sen. Gorton has been the point man in the senate for the "Wise Use" movement, backed by major timber, mining, energy and development corporations. Just take a look at his other bills, riders and his voting record. More than likely his anti-tribal strategy has been worked out in some right wing think tank.

3. Sen. Gorton gained a lot from his bill. What he was able to do was to manipulate the focus of the debate. And that focus was the idea that this is only a non-tribal vs tribal issue. At the Tukwila hearings, and I would guess at the other hearings also, the only non-tribal people who spoke were those that had some type of gripe with the tribes. No attempt was made to present non-tribal people who get along with the tribes and support them. The whole image was that non-tribal people are being victimized by the tribes. Here is a little fact that was never stated: if you were to take the numbers of all the non-tribal people who support tribal sovereignty, who do business with the tribes with no problems, and those who are patrons of tribal businesses (and this is an important number because the anti-tribal people have a boycott of tribal businesses), and compare those numbers of people to the numbers of the anti-tribal people, you will find that the anti-tribal people are a small minority. But those non-tribal people who are not anti-tribal, even though they greatly outnumber the anti-tribal people, are given not voice in this debate. If the image were true, then most of the tribal businesses would go out of business.

4. Sen. Slade Gorton in withdrawing his bill has stated that in June he will have five new proposals.

In the hearings, in the press and at the racists rallies all the talk was about how a few white people have allegedly been harmed by tribal sovereignty and treaty rights. Even one TV show in Seattle called itself "Indian treaty rights and wrongs". But nothing is being said about the historical and on-going wrongs that have been done to the First Nations. We ask this; those who wish to take away Native treaty rights, are they willing to give back all the land and rights that they gain because of the treaties? Given all that rich white people have done throughout history and are still doing, we are sicken by the statements that they claim to be victims.

We feel that it is very important to keep up the pressure on Sen. Gorton and we also call upon non-tribal people who support tribal sovereignty to demand a voice in this debate. Everyone please e-mail your comments to Sen. Slade Gorton at: Senator_Gorton@gorton.senate.gov. And please send e-mails to Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell at: administrator@campbell.senate.gov, because it seems as if this whole process is starting to wear him down. Justice will never be gained through inaction. Please flood Sen. Gorton with e-mails.

Arthur J. Miller can be reached at NWLPSN P. O. Box 5464 Tacoma, WA 98415-0464 or at arthurmiller50@juno.com •

Nothing is being said about the historical and on-going wrongs that have been done to the First Nations. . . .are those who wish to take away Native treaty rights willing to give back all the land and rights they have gained because of the treaties?

Native Sovereignty Demonstration a Success

The May 9th "Washington Gathering To Fight Racism" was more of a success than we had hoped for. I did not count how many people we had, but the TV news coverage that filmed the march said we had 200 people. Other coverage said we had 100. The racists did not counter demonstrate. We took one lane of the street and marched from Sylvester Park to the state capital and there held our rally. The following is a breakdown of the event.

1. Security was organized at the park with two teams. The two team leaders were Steve Hapy and Greg Jackson. Most of the team members were made up of the newly formed Puyallup AIM group, and an experienced Seattle activist and a Seattle Wobbly.

2. The speakers were made up of Native people from different parts of Washington, speakers from different communities and labor. Very good statements were made on racism, the anti-tribal campaign, Slade Gorton's bill, Leonard Peltier, and the connections between communities and labor.

3. The media coverage that I know of was as follows: Channels 5, 7, 11 and a cable news channel. One channel, 5, had it has their lead story at 5pm; they also had it at 11pm and on their next morning news show. The cable news channel played the coverage many times that night and the next day. The daily paper in Olympia carried an article in their Sunday issue. The coverage did get out the main message of the gathering.

Arthur J. Miller

photo by hali panneton

Anarchist Demonstrate Against RCW 9.05

photo by hali panneton

Tibetan Monks pass through Olympia

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, worksinprogress@juno.com, or come by our office and drop it in the "WIP Box" located in the Liberation Cafe.

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index.

WIP is also being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, June 19th

6pm at Liberation Cafe

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, June 23rd
7 pm at Liberation Cafe

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Letters & Briefs

Unlearning Prejudice is Necessary Work

Dear People,

I am hearing the word "oriental" along with its accompanying prejudices used around our various communities lately. I want to put a spotlight on it and invite discussion and education. This particular package of prejudice often goes something like this- ..."those orientals who just got here and already have their own businesses and fancy cars and collect welfare..". Whenever I hear this particular package of prejudice start to unfold, I can feel myself flinch. Prejudice hurts all of us.

So when I hear it I am going to say something or write something. "Oriental." Activists worked through the 60's and 70's to teach people that if they need to use a term denoting category to use "Asian- American." Oppressed groups have been named by colonizers for centuries. It is about time we all respect each other and use what people say works for them. Ask people how they identify themselves and then use that term.

Maybe once we get the name thing down- getting rid of abusive names like "redskins" and "orientals"- we can work on other elements of prejudice. I know that unlearning prejudice takes time- and time may be what many of us don't have. We are busy surviving. I know that it can be easy to blame someone else, to join in with available prejudices rather than stay focussed on the actual colonizers. I know that many of us live in communities under siege. But unlearning prejudices, ALL prejudice is necessary, vital work.

Sarah Light

Join the Tenants' Union

If you rent your residence, your space, you need the tenants union (as in labor union.) If you've wondered over the years what your rights are as a renter - you need the tenants' union. If you are tired of biting your tongue to get along with the landlord, because the landlord can toss your tired butt out onto the street at a whim - you need the Thurston County Tenants Union!

And the Tenants Union needs you. We are about to open a hotline for renters to answer questions about their rights and we need your help. Our next meeting is **Monday, June 8, from 6:00 to 9:00**, in the Olympia Timberland Regional Library at the corner of 8th and Franklin. Come check us out.

Local 443 endorses nine candidates and opposes two elected officials

Olympia - Members at the April 21, 1998, general meeting of Local 443 of the Washington Federation of State Employees, AFSCME, formally endorsed nine candidates running for office in Thurston County and voted to formally oppose the re-election bids of two incumbent Thurston County officials. The endorsements followed the first ever joint interview process held in conjunction with Local 618 of the County and City Employees, the Thurston-Lewis Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and representatives of other Thurston County area unions. A 60 percent super majority vote was required for endorsement or opposition.

Candidates earning a single endorsement included Patricia Costello, candidate for Thurston County Assessor, Joanna Reiko Callner, candidate for Thurston County Prosecutor, Keith Clark, candidate for Thurston County Auditor, Robin Hunt, candidate for Thurston County Treasurer, and Judy Arnold, candidate for Thurston County Coroner. Candidates earning a dual endorsement included Betty Gould and Claire Krueger, candidates for Thurston County Clerk, and Kevin O'Sullivan and Jeff Dickison, candidates for Thurston County Commissioner.

A recommendation from the Local's Political Action Committee to endorse Gary Edwards' bid for re-election as Thurston County Sheriff fell short of the required 60 percent super majority so the Local has taken no position in that race.

In addition to endorsing candidates, the Local took the rare step of formally and unanimously opposing the re-election of 20-year incumbent Thurston County Auditor Sam Reed and first term Thurston County Prosecutor Bernardean Broadous. Reed was criticized for the way he uses his position to promote other Republican candidates, his lack of attention to his duties as the County's Chief Financial Officer, and his frosty relations with County employee representatives. Broadous was called to task for the massive turnover in deputy prosecutors since she took office in 1995, her poor management skills, and Thurston County's low conviction rate, which is among the lowest of Western Washington counties. The

(Continued on page 11)

SOUTH SOUND
GREEN PAGES

South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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the gray sky
blue behind the clouds
the computer screen empty behind
the words

geese in loose V formation
point their long-necks
towards some destination and wing
past our house

in the garden
lemon color crocuses
already in bloom despite our winter calendar

japanese miniature irises
delicately open purple
encircling the unmoving golden
buddha statue

our neighbor's
dustbrown rooster
salutes the sun between cracks of
cloud

from the other room
the tv blares war ships
converging in persian gulf deja vu

there is peace behind the war
love behind the hate
clarity beyond these clouds

- robert lovitt

JUNE 1998

Raising children in a society that values…

- Power
- Wealth
- Hierarchical Authority
- Image
- Punishment
- Competition/Winning
- Control
- Emotionlessness
- Military Strength
- Revenge

Raising children in a society that…

- destroys the environment
- demonizes People of Color
- abuses children
- attacks Lesbians/Gays
- minimizes non-christians
- blames the impoverished
- ignores people w/ disabilities
- devalues the elderly
- ridicules femininity
- fears young people

Makes it difficult for children to value others.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
We must reject not only the stereotypes that others hold of us, but also the stereotypes that we hold of ourselves. **Shirley Chisholm**	**1** **1997** - Early morning fire left Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X, clinging to life with third-degree burns over 80% of her body	**2** **1997** - State Court of Appeals strikes down Bellingham's curfew for teen-agers, held it violates teenagers' fundamental rights	**3** **1996** - TESC officials announce campus security officers will be carrying guns and that this would occur no earlier than Sept. 1	**4** **1972**- Angela Davis acquitted **1997** - Clinton signs update of Individuals With Disabilities Education Act	**5** **1950**- Supreme Court rules segregation practices in Southern railroad dining cars and two Southern universities are invalid	**6** **1997** - State Supreme Court rules Thurston County sheriff's deputies allowed to patrol areas of Nisqually Reservation
7 **1972** - 9 year-old Kim Phuc is photographed running naked and screaming from a naplam attack in Vietnam	**8** **1997** - Air Force Gen. Ralston withdraws his candidacy to head the Joint Chiefs of State due to the uproar over an adulterous affair	**9** **1942**- Gestapo burns Czechoslovakian village, shoot 173 male residents, and send women, children to concentration camps	**10** **1996** - Supreme Court blocks a federal appeals court ruling that Washington state ban on doctor-assisted suicide unconstitutional	**11** **1997** - Randy Tate named Christian Coalition exe. director **1997** - Golden paintbrush is listed as threatened	**12** **1997** - Ralph Nader asks Washington voters to reject billionaire Paul Allen's Seahawk Stadium Referendum	**13** **1996** - Supreme Court invalidates predominantly minority congressional districts **1996** - Montana's Freemen surrender
14 **1913**- S Africa passes Immigration Act, restricting entry, free movement of Asians **1907**- Norway grants women the vote	**15** **1903**- Floods follow sudden cloudburst in Oregon, 500 dead **1752**- Benjamin Franklin flies his kite in a thunder storm	**16** **1936**- Olympic National Park is created **1987** - NY: Bernhard Goetz is acquitted in the subway shooting of four Black youths	**17** **1963**- Supreme Court rules no state or locality may require recitation of the Lord's Prayer or Bible verses in public schools	**18** **1968**- Supreme Court banned racial discrimination in housing **1907**- George Bernard Shaw and Mark Twain meet in London	**19** **1997** - Bethel parent files civil rights complaint Tumwater H.S. girls softball field is inferior to the two boys baseball fields	**20** **1967**- Muhammad Ali convicted of violating Selective Service Act by refusing induction into the armed services
21 **1996** - Defense Department finally admits U.S. soldiers may have been exposed to toxic agents in Iraq	**22** **1997** - Justice Department reports the nation's adult prison population grew by 5% in 1996, an additional 55,876 inmates	**23** **1995** - Tribes receive $57 million for lands lost when dams were built on the Columbia **1997** - Betty Shabazz dies	**24** **1964**- cigarette packages require warning **1935**- Gov. Martin protects Weyerhaeuser strikebreakers with state patrol/nat'l guard	**25** *full moon* ● **1876**- The "good guys" won at the Little Big Horn **1997** - Locke and family return to a bat-free Governor's Mansion	**26** **1997** - Supreme Court dismisses lawsuit challenging Line Item Veto Act and defers a final ruling on its constitutionality until later	**27** **1844**- Joseph Smith, and his brother are murdered by a mob **1997** - Hundreds attend the funeral of Betty Shabazz
28 **1996** - Olympia's State Theater closes **1997** - U.N. report: children account for nearly one-fourth of all AIDS deaths	**29** **1972**- Death penalty ruled unconstitutional **1995** - Supreme Court rules gov. can halt destruction of endangered species habitat	**30** **1958**- Supreme Court reverses $100,000 contempt fine imposed by Alabama on NAACP for not divulging its members	**No person is your friend (or kin) who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow and be perceived as fully blossomed as you were intended.** **Alice Walker**			

MAY

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31						

JULY

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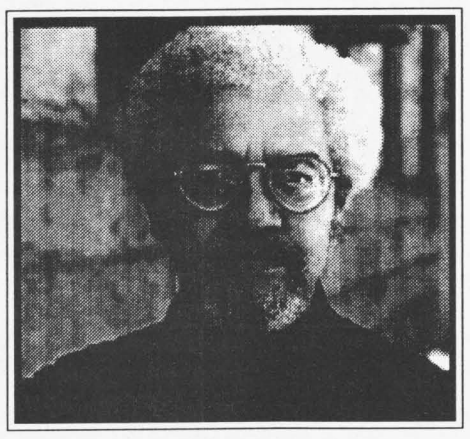
Along the Color Line

The Triumph of Capitalism?



Dr. Manning Marable

America's corporate and financial elite are celebrating their successes as never before. The stock market has reached 9,000 points, a record high, generating billions of dollars in profits. Inflation remains under control, and the cost of borrowing money from financial lending institutions is in real terms the lowest in two decades. Internationally, Soviet-style Communism has disappeared, and most socialist parties in Africa, Europe and elsewhere have capitulated to neoliberal capitalist policies. Globalization and high technology allow capitalists to move billions of dollars and potentially millions of jobs in microseconds.

Why is the corporate and financial establishment so smug? A recent report from the Internal Revenue Service indicates that in 1995, the richest 1 percent of all Americans have 21.4 percent of the nation's entire wealth. There is, in short, a substantial economic ruling class in the United States. As of 1995, about four million Americans had gross assets of at least $600,000. Over 1.1 million Americans in 1994 reported annual incomes of $200,000 or more. Of this wealthy group, 1,137 individuals paid no income tax whatsoever. Investments in tax exempt bonds, interest payments and other accounting strategies are used to reduce rich people's taxes. According to the IRS, about 43 percent of all people earning over $200,000 annually have an "effective tax rate" of 24 percent or less.

Even when executives grossly mismanage their corporations, losing hundreds of millions of dollars, they are generously rewarded with huge bonuses, fat stock options and other generous perks. For example, Delta Airlines CEO Ronald Allen was fired last year, but he is guaranteed an annual consultant salary of $500,000 for the next seven years. Wayne Calloway left his CEO position at PepsiCo in 1996, but got an additional $500,000 in salary and an extra $1.5 million as a bonus. PepsiCo's representative explained that Calloway's cash was for "advice, counsel and transition support." Lawrence Lasser, currently the CEO at Putnam Investments mutual fund, will receive after his retirement an annual payment of $1.5 million for life.

Most people have heard about the recent economic problems of many health maintenance organizations, of "HMOs," like Oxford Health Plans, Inc. According to the New York Times, Oxford lost $291 million in 1997 alone. The company's stock has plummeted from $89 a share down to $15 a share. Oxford has fallen months behind in paying the plan's nurses, doctors and other health care providers. So not unexpectedly, Oxford founder and chairman, Stephen F. Wiggins, was pressured to resign days ago.

What Wiggins received for his gross mismanagement was obscene. For starters, upon his resignation, Wiggins received a cash payment of $3.6 million. He will be paid $1.8 million annually for three more years. Wiggins will continue to receive health insurance, as well as the services of a secretary. Oxford will pay for his private membership in the Harvard Club in New York City and the Wee Burn Country Club in Darien, Connecticut. Oxford even agreed to reimburse Wiggins for the cost of having his income taxes prepared until 2002.

Capitalism "works" only if you're among the most affluent classes in society. But most Americans—black, Latino, Asian, American Indians, and white—are "losers" in a system that puts profits ahead of people.

Who pays for the perks to Wiggins and his corporate pals? American working women and men do.

Corporations are cutting back against workers across-the-board. One major strategy is to replace full-time employees with part-time and temporary workers. At Microsoft, for example, there are about 17,000 domestic employees, and 5,000 temp workers. Over 1,500 temps have worked at Microsoft more than one year; and about 500 working more than two years. During peak periods, many Microsoft temps are pressured to work 70 to 80 hours weeks. *The New York Times* has estimated that Microsoft may save $24 million a year for workers have mushroomed from 800,000 to 2.5 million. More than 10 percent of the labor force at one out of five US corporations are temps.

Capitalism "works" only if you're among the most affluent classes in society. But most Americans—black, Latino, Asian, American Indians, and white—are "losers" in a system that puts profits ahead of people.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in african-American Studies at Columbia University. "Along the color Line" appears in over 35 publications across the United States and internationally. •

Color-coded Health Care

photo by Leigh H. Mosley

Julianne Malveaux

While income and education gaps between African Americans and whites are narrowing, the health gap is growing.

The National Institute for Aging recently reported that the average African American remains healthy till the age of 56, as compared to 64 years for a white person. African-American women are three times as likely to die in childbirth as white women are, and infant mortality rates, while dropping, are still twice as high for African Americans as for whites. Black women are diagnosed with breast cancer at younger ages, and are more likely to die from that disease than are white women. African Americans are three times more likely to die from high blood pressure than are whites. The incidence of tuberculosis, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and stroke are all higher for African Americans than whites. No matter what health indicator is examined, there is a gap between blacks and whites.

Why?

Part of the difference has to do with income. On average, African Americans earn 60 percent of what whites earn. Less money often buys a different set of health services. Indeed, the poorest Americans often have health care delivered through emergency rooms, and have no access to preventive care.

But even when incomes are equal, health gaps remain. Do doctors treat black and white patients differently, regardless of income? Some consumers of health services assert that such differences exist.

Education may also make a difference in the kind of health care people seek out. Again, though, when education levels are held constant, there still remain differences in some health indicators. African Americans may have the ability to seek out the best medical care there is, but may not be able to control the stereotypes that shape the kind of health services they get.

The health gap is shameful reminder of the fact that we need much more than a conversation on race to move us to racial equality.

Even when we control for a number of factors, including income, education, obesity, and smoking, the health gap remains.

Does the stress of black life in a racist society contribute to the large number of African-American men diagnosed with prostate cancer? Does it contribute to the fact that many African-American men in their early forties have experienced heart attacks and sometimes died from them? Does it contribute to the alarmingly high levels of high blood pressure among African Americans?

Professor John Hope Franklin, chair of President Clinton's race-relations advisory board, has spoken poignantly of the frequency with which he experiences racial insults. Although Franklin is in his eighties and has made more than 50 years of stellar scholarly contributions, he is subject to the basest of racial slurs. Would a white contemporary of his have the same experience? What health effect comes from the rush of anger, or even disappointment, at assumptions that one is powerless to control? Can this account for some of the difference in the health status of African Americans?

Consider the victims of a car accident, one black, one white. Bloodied and bruised, no one can tell what their status is when they are rushed to the hospital. Those who make assumptions might provide the white patient with expedited service, leaving the African American to wait. If you say it can't happen, consider Crown Heights, N.Y., in 1991, where ambulances sped by a dying Gavin Cato to attend to the perpetrator of the accident. Later, they said that the ambulances were "private" and no discrimination was involved. Tell that to the Cato family.

To be sure, cultural factors may also play a role in the health gap. It has been more than 30 years since civil-rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer declared that she was "sick and tired of being sick and tired," but too many African-American women, at all income levels, consider sickness and tiredness par for the course.

How do we close the gap?

There has to be equal access to quality health care, but there also have to be shifts in attitudes. Patients have to be much more aggressive about demanding the care that they need. Doctors have to be much more enlightened about the assumptions that shape the care they offer.

The health gap is shameful reminder of the fact that we need much more than a conversation on race to move us to racial equality.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and a nationally syndicated columnist with the King Features Syndicate. (Editor's note: This op-ed is written for the Progressive Media Project. •

Affirmative Action Hires Qualified People

Anne Phillips

Affirmative Action hires qualified people. Affirmative Action hires from a pool of qualified applicants and chooses someone who will represent a cultural facet of the community not yet represented (or not represented enough). The percentage of a cultural group in a community should be the same percentage in the workplace. Our work places should at least match our communities. In Thurston county as of April 1996 the breakdown of ethnic population is: African-American 2.5%, Native/Indian 2%, Asian-American 6%, Hispanic 4%, and European-American 90%. (The numbers do not add up because the state includes Hispanic with other ethnic identities.)

If someone is not qualified for the position, they will not be hired. The end. Affirmative Action recognizes people have different abilities. If an able bodied woman has more skills than a physically disabled woman and they are both qualified to do the job Affirmative Action hires the qualified applicant that does not have as many benefits in this society.

Affirmative action has been alive and strong forever. However it did not have a name. White people have been hiring each other for years and years. White people hire their friends, family and neighbors. One example is universities recruiting preferences for family of alumni. With the student body primarily being white, it will remain white. When the anti-Affirmative Action Initiative passed in California a few years ago enrollment of university students of color dropped 85%.

Affirmative Action recognizes people have different abilities. If an able bodied woman has more skills than a physically disabled woman and they are both qualified to do the job Affirmative Action hires the qualified applicant that does not have as many benefits in this society.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made discrimination illegal and established equal employment opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, cultural background, color or religion. Affirmative Action was given a name and took action to recognize all people.

White people are living with benefits they are not aware of. The benefits are there everyday, they are impossible to see until they are pointed out to you and you are willing to listen. For example, the average salary of an African-American female college graduate in a full time position is less than that of a white male high-school drop out. Also, according to a 1995 government report, white males make up only 29% of the workforce, but they hold 95% of senior management positions. Affirmative Action is taking action to recognize all people and spread the white wealth.

Initiative 200 is wanting to end all "preferential treatment". "Preferential treatment" is a vague broad term. If I-200 passed someone in government power will interpret "preferential treatment". Preferential treatment could include numerous programs, including veterans benefits. Do not give your power away and depend on another to interpret this vague broad term. Keep alive the evolving work of the 50's-60's Civil Rights movement that lead to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Racism abuses white people. Many white people do not know their cultural identities and do not practice their cultural traditions. Most European-Americans unconsciously merged to become "white" to be a stronger force. In turn, history was lost.

White people will gain by being a team player, they will gain by learning about themselves and others. I highly recommend that you read Paul Kivel's book, *Uprooting Racism*. It is vital we continue to become conscious of how racism is perpetuated. •

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The Relevance of Socialism

Examining the Capitalist Centralization of Power

J-REP

In recent decades, the concept of socialism has been treated with increasing contempt by the paid pundits of the capitalist system. Whereas once it was the fashion to denounce socialism as a totalitarian threat to human freedom, the current trend is to dismiss it as hopelessly outmoded, inefficient and irrelevant. The main reason for this change, needless to say, is the collapse of the Soviet Union and the partial restoration of capitalism throughout eastern Europe. At the same time, many quasi-socialist regimes in the Third World, particularly Africa, have also been discredited by their authoritarian practices and failure to achieve anticipated economic growth. Cuba and North Korea have not been doing so well either, so it is only natural that apologists for capitalism should point to these alleged failures of socialism and dismiss the entire concept as irrelevant.

The apparent failure of socialism in recent decades has been accompanied by an unprecedented expansion and consolidation of the world capitalist system. As Karl Marx predicted long ago, capitalism has gone international. Multi-national corporations are the rule; stock markets and money markets all over the world are linked by computers; international financial institutions like the IMF play an increasingly important role in world economic life. To many it would seem that the millennium quite literally is here. Wars between the various capitalist countries appear more and more unlikely due to the internationalization of the world capitalist system. In the past, the capitalist system tended to alternate between periods of boom and bust, but this problem has supposedly been fixed, opening up vistas of permanent peace and prosperity under capitalist auspices for all eternity.

To be sure, not everyone shares in this prosperity. The majority of people throughout the Third World still live in poverty, and even in a wealthy country like the United States there are many poor people. But according to capitalist ideology, the problem of poverty will be solved by intensified capitalist investment in poverty stricken areas. The multi-national corporations will be drawn to these areas by the fact that they can pay lower wages there than elsewhere. By putting the worlds unemployed to work for a few dollars a day, the capitalist system will gradually extend its blessings across the surface of the entire globe. And if there are local disturbances in the meanwhile, not to worry: a multi-national military force can easily be dispatched to create an appropriate climate for foreign investment.

As a socialist, what I find particularly ironic about the recent expansion and consolidation of the capitalist system is that it has been accompanied by precisely the same centralization of economic power which used to be considered a sign of the totalitarian proclivities of the socialist system. The major shareholders in the major multi-national corporations now constitute an international elite whose economic decisions are far more influential on a world scale than those of any elected officials. While small retail businesses are being replaced by national and international chain stores, large corporations are routinely taken over by even larger ones. Mergers and acquisitions have increased dramatically, resulting in larger and larger conglomerates which are controlled by fewer and fewer people. Yet no one calls this system totalitarian, because its professed ideology is a belief in democracy, free speech and cultural diversity.

However, according to traditional socialist thinking, centralization of capital in fewer and fewer hands also creates an economic problem. More and more wealth tends to be diverted to financial speculation, mergers and loans, leaving less and less for productive investment or individual consumption. Stock prices soar, but eventually the bubble bursts, resulting in a stock market crash and an economic depression. Some think we may be on the verge of just such a collapse today. Moreover, just because the system has become so centralized and internationalized, the consequences of a downward turn in the business cycle are likely to be even more severe than in the past. But who knows what the future holds? To me, a stock market crash appears likely but far from certain.

Let us assume for the sake of argument that there is no crash, that the capitalist system continues to grow and to spread just as its apologists anticipate. This means that the process of the concentration of capital in fewer and fewer hands will continue unabated. Gradually a situation will arise where most of the economic activity in most of the world is planned, organized and directed by a small group of incredibly wealthy people. They will not be subject to any government controls, whether national or international, nor will they be chosen by anyone except themselves. It will be up to them to decide whether to pollute the environment or not, whether to produce more food or less, whether to invest in one region or another. Is this a desirable situation? Is it compatible with the democratic ideology which most apologists for the capitalist system profess? Of course not. The more successful capitalism becomes, the more undemocratic it will be.

We already have a situation in the United States today where more than half of the eligible voters either do not register or do not vote because they feel it makes no difference who is elected. Real economic issues, such as where to invest and in what, are rarely discussed in the media because they are not publicly decided. Politicians work themselves into a rhetorical frenzy over trivial differences while automatically endorsing whatever the multi-national corporations want. And this is happening in a country with a long democratic tradition which used to pride itself on its public educational system and well informed electorate. That same electorate today prefers to get its information from supermarket tabloids, whose main focus is on the life styles of the rich and famous or unexplained mysteries. There is no point in knowing what is actually going on, for all the important decisions are made behind closed doors by people who prefer to remain out of sight.

So even if the capitalist system continues to function properly according to its own logic, the result is going to be the gradual disappearance of any real democracy in the United States and the other capitalist countries. What is much more likely, however, is that the business cycle will assert itself in the future as in the past and a major economic collapse will ensue. The results of such an eventuality are not difficult to foresee. People will start searching for a scapegoat and we all know whom they will select. The neo-Nazis and black Muslims are already out there talking about how everything is controlled by the Jews. And since there are in fact a certain number of Jews among the wealthy people who control the economy, it will not prove difficult to concoct a story about how the Jews ruined the beautiful capitalist system. Reared on a steady diet of unexplained mysteries, conspiracy theories and Christian propaganda, a significant segment of the American public is going to accept this story. In the future as in the past, anti-Semitism can provide the capitalist class with a convenient means of diverting attention from the limitations of the capitalist system and directing it towards a vulnerable and dispensable group. Along with intensified anti-Semitism, an economic collapse will also bring in its wake protests and disturbances. And after decades of propaganda glorifying violence and the police on TV and in the movies, does any one doubt how the system will react? At the first signs of any serious threat to the stability of the system, we will see the rapid curtailment of democratic rights and the violent suppression of dissent. So regardless of whether the capitalist system breaks down or continues to function smoothly, the result is going to be the same. The political system is going to become increasingly undemocratic for the simple reason that the economic system is also becoming increasingly undemocratic. You cannot have a small group of wealthy people control the economy and at the same time place real decision-making power in the hands of we the people. Either the people have to curtail the power of wealth, or the wealthy will curtail the power of the people.

Economic decisions affect everyone in a fundamental way and therefore everyone should have a voice in how economic decisions are made.

But is economic democracy a realistic goal? The main argument that has been traditionally directed against the socialist concept is that in practice it results in a centralization of power even worse than the capitalist centralization of power. And in fact, the version of socialism that developed in the Soviet Union, China and other Communist countries did result in a dictatorial system. It is clearly not possible to place the entire economy in the hands of the government and expect to preserve democratic rights at the same time. But in many countries socialist institutions existed for a long time without any erosion of democratic rights. Only certain industries were nationalized, while others remained in private hands and still others were run by cooperatives. For example, until recently some 40% of the Israeli economy was government owned, with another 20% in the cooperative sector and the remaining 40% privately owned. The fact that less than half of the economy was in the private sector did not prevent Israel from maintaining a multi-party democratic political system throughout its history. Socialist institutions also proved compatible with democracy in the Scandinavian countries and Western Europe.

Nonetheless the trend in recent years has been towards the privatization of socialist institutions everywhere in the world, including even China. It is alleged that this is because these institutions are less efficient than capitalist corporations. They are not so quick to adopt technological innovations, nor do they devote so much attention to public relations. But in my opinion, the main reason for the worldwide trend towards privatization is the political, cultural and military hegemony of the United States. The United States is the only major capitalist country which has never had any socialist institutions whatsoever on a national level. The fact that the United States has achieved enormous wealth and power on a purely capitalist basis makes everyone think that if only they were more capitalist they too would be more wealthy and powerful. More than any other single factor, it is American domination of the entire world that makes socialism appear an irrelevant concept.

It cannot be denied that capitalism in the United States has proved a great success. However, this success was mainly due to two factors which are extraneous to the capitalist system. In the first place, the United States was blessed with an abundance of natural resources such as are found nowhere else in the world. Large stretches of fertile land were combined with rich mineral deposits, including oil, iron, coal, copper, gold and silver. In the second place, because it was a frontier country, the United States did not replicate the pattern of aristocratic rule which still existed in a large part of the world when it was first founded. Instead there emerged a large middle class of small farmers and small businessmen who became the dominant element in American society during the 19th century. The influence of this class gave capitalism in the United States a much more democratic character than was elsewhere the case, and this democratic character in turn tended to promote innovation and initiative in American industry.

Today both of the factors which helped American capitalism to succeed are of declining importance. The mineral resources which stimulated American economic expansion are largely exhausted, and the middle class of small farmers and small businessmen is

(Continued next page)

When The People Speak, The Corporations Squeak

Russell Mokhiber

Having learned from the South African divestment movement that local actions can help stop egregious human rights abuses and bring democracy to countries around the world, citizens across the United States are increasingly mobilizing in support of state and local sanctions against countries such as Burma, Nigeria and Indonesia, all of which are ruled by brutal dictatorships.

These sanctions typically leverage the power of government agencies as consumer, using "selective purchasing" laws to bar the government from doing business with companies that do business in the targeted country. Massachusetts and more than a dozen cities have adopted such laws.

The idea is to encourage corporations to stop doing business in dictatorial countries, on the theory that income from their investments help prop up autocratic regimes. The South African example — where state and local sanctions, along with university and private divestment campaigns and national sanctions unquestionably helped speed the end of apartheid — lends strong credence to the theory.

Facing a rising tide of state and local sanctions, Big Business has banded together into an outfit called USA*Engage to defeat and roll back grassroots efforts to influence where multinationals do business. USA*Engage has more than 600 members, including Aetna, Bechtel, Cargill, Caterpillar, Exxon, Mobil, Monsanto, Pepsi, TRW and United Technologies.

In March, the state of Maryland was on the verge of enacting a selective purchasing law that targeted Nigeria. Nigeria is ruled by a military government that feeds of oil money (provided by companies like Shell and Mobil) and drug money. The government annulled a democratic election held in 1993, has jailed the victor in that election, allegedly killed his wife, executed Ken Saro-Wiwa, a leader of the Ogoni people, murdered and tortured thousands of citizens and jailed the nation's trade union leadership. All in all, Nigeria is an excellent candidate for sanctions.

The idea is to encourage corporations to stop doing business in dictatorial countries, on the theory that income from their investments help prop up autocratic regimes.

But not in the eyes of Big Business. It launched a furious campaign to defeat the selective purchasing proposal, arguing that sanctions are ineffective, unfairly disadvantage U.S. companies and undermine federal authority to make foreign policy. At the last minute, the Clinton administration intervened, saying Maryland's proposed law would violate U.S. trade treaty obligations. This tipped the balance against the bill. Big Business's lobbyists were smiling when they left Maryland.

Now, the same band of companies is seeking to roll back Massachusetts's selective purchasing law which targets Burma, another military dictatorship which has killed thousands, jailed the nation's rightfully elected leader and thrives on oil money (especially from Unocal) and drug money.

Late last month, the National Foreign Trade Council, another business coalition, with 550 U.S. manufacturing company members, filed suit against Massachusetts, claiming the state's selective purchasing law infringes on the federal government's foreign policymaking power.

The lawsuit faces significant hurdles. It is not clear that the Trade Council has legal standing to bring the suit, nor that local and state sanctions interfere with federal powers in any constitutionally significant way.

But while the suits winds its way through the federal courts, it sends a powerful, chilling message to state and local officials considering responding to citizen campaigns to adopt sanctions. The message: States and localities that seek to enact selective purchasing proposals will face unremitting pressure from politically powerful multinational corporations. They should expect massive corporate lobbying campaigns, threats of lawsuits, pressure from a federal government which is choosing to ally itself with business interests on sanctions and the threat of suit at the World Trade Organization and other trade bodies (indeed, the European Union and Japan have both threatened to call for the formation of penalty-wielding WTO dispute settlement panels to rule against Massachusetts's Burma law).

The purpose of this corporate campaign of intimidation is clear: While multinationals may or may not prefer to do business with dictators, they certainly do not want citizens interfering with their commercial operations in authoritarian countries — even if those operations help prop up dictatorships.

At root, the suit over Massachusetts's Burma law is a clash between corporate internationalism and citizen internationalism.

The outcome of the clash will have huge consequences. As citizen internationalists like to point out, if the corporate internationalists' argument had prevailed in the case of South Africa, Nelson Mandela might still be in jail.

(c) Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman. Russell Mokhiber is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based Corporate Crime Reporter. *Robert Weissman is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based* Multinational Monitor. •

(Examining, continued)

greatly reduced in size and influence. Most so-called middle class people in the United States today are employees of large companies. American capitalism today does not greatly differ from capitalism elsewhere: it is no longer particularly innovative, nor is its ownership less concentrated in a few hands. What continues to distinguish American capitalism from capitalism elsewhere is only the presence of a large military establishment possessed of the most advanced weapons of mass destruction. It is primarily this military establishment which continues to give American capitalism a certain competitive advantage over its rivals. At the same time, American reliance on military force to secure foreign markets and resources also tends to intensify the anti-democratic tendencies in American life.

For all of these reasons, it is simply not possible for other countries to imitate the success of American capitalism. As the people of Russia and Eastern Europe are discovering, abandonment of socialist institutions does not necessarily lead to economic growth. To the contrary, it may well result in the disappearance of already established industries and domination of those which remain by the giant multinational corporations. It may well be that socialist institutions could benefit from becoming more like capitalist corporations - more innovative, more responsive to consumer needs. But without socialist institutions, most countries can expect nothing more than to become economic satellites of the dominant capitalist countries. And as the experience of the Third World amply demonstrates, such economic satellites are generally consigned to a very low standard of living. The best land and the most valuable resources are monopolized by foreign corporations, which pay their workers very little, and the bulk of the population is left to eke out a subsistence living from poor land and meager resources. Contrary to capitalist doctrine, paying workers a few dollars a day does not lead to prosperity, except for the capitalists themselves.

Socialist institutions are also needed in the capitalist countries to counter the growing trend towards the dictatorship of the rich. In my view, socialism is or should be nothing other than economic democracy. Economic decisions which affect the welfare of the entire population should be subject to public control. This means that key industries such as energy, transportation and communications should be nationalized. Other industries can be left in private hands but subject to a certain degree of government regulation. Cooperative enterprises in all fields should be encouraged. The government should assume responsibility for making sure that the entire population is well fed, well housed, well educated and provided with all necessary public services. This doesn't mean that the government should own everything or control everything. The experience of the Communist countries proves that such a system doesnt work. Public control has to be combined with individual freedom and initiative in such a way as to get the best of both worlds. The key is democracy, whether manifested in regulation of the economy by elected officials or in cooperative enterprises controlled by their workers.

Unfortunately a growing number of Americans are losing faith in democracy. It is this loss of faith in the ability of the majority of the people to make rational decisions which is ultimately responsible for the attitude that socialism is an irrelevant concept. Most Americans realize that the economy is controlled by the rich, but they believe that the rich know what they are doing, as proven by the fact that they are rich. And in fact many rich people are undoubtedly very intelligent and competent, but this does not mean that they know what they are doing. The trouble with rich people is that they do not care what happens to anyone except themselves. Even if the whole world should be polluted by their love of cars, planes and recreational vehicles, they still feel confident of finding a pleasant place to live. Even if the capitalist system should collapse tomorrow, they still feel confident of retaining control of the economy. Even if others should fight and die to preserve their access to foreign resources, they still feel confident of living in peace.

The bottom line is that the economy is too important to be left in the hands of a few wealthy people. Economic decisions affect everyone in a fundamental way and therefore everyone should have a voice in how economic decisions are made. There is no doubt that as time goes on, the world will gradually move closer and closer to a planned global economy. We all live on the same planet, and the more aware people everywhere become of their inter-dependence, the more they will seek to develop mechanisms to plan world economic development in a rational way. The only real issue is whether these mechanisms will be controlled by the many or the few. The relevance of socialism is that it stands for control by the many.

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Works In Progress seeks contributors

Works In Progress encourages all persons, who would like to voice opinions or bring attention to issues of concern, to send written text (if on disk, IBM text preferred), recorded voice text, photographs, poetry, and/or art work to:

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Resumes or journalism writing skills are not required. It is recommended that an article be written in the contributor's own voice from her/his perspective. *Works In Progress* challenges the validity of the widely accepted concept of "unbiased journalism."

Up Front

Terror in the Schools

Jerome Johnson

By the time Kip Kinkel got out of bed last Thursday morning, at least 22 people had been killed in school shootings since February 1996.

Last Wednesday, Kinkel was suspended because he tried to buy a handgun from another student at Thurston High. He was caught because school officials received a tip. Thursday morning at about 8:00, he took a semi-automatic .22 rifle and tow handguns to school. He casually walked in and wounded two students as soon as he opened the door. He was near the cafeteria, where nearly four hundred people were eating and talking. He knew the cafeteria would be crowded for the Senior Mens" Excellence breakfast when he calmly went in and opened fire with the rifle. By the time Kinkel stopped to reload, four people were fatally wounded and another 16 injured. While Kinkel reloaded several very brave people, led by student Jake Ryker, tackled Kinkel and held him until police arrived. At the moment, no one knew Kinkel had already murdered both of his parents and built five bombs, with materials to make more.

At about the same time Kinkel strolled into Thurston High, another 15 year old got into his school bus in Onalaska. He had a 9mm handgun. At gunpoint, he ordered his girlfriend off the bus and kidnapped her. He forced her to go with him to his home. While the girl's father was breaking in the boy shot himself in the head. Ten hours later he was dead at Harborview medical Center.

At this point, I don't know why this happened. I only know that I'm scared. My niece and nephew are in middle and elementary school, respectively, and their mother goes to school all the time for various reasons. I have friends who work in schools. My colleagues and I myself work in school. I'm scared to death because it can happen here—and nearly has. I know of one case where a student was expelled for bringing a 30.06 hunting rifle to a Thurston County school. Thank God, the kid accepted it and didn't come back—let alone enraged and heavily armed, like Kinkel and all the other kids who have committed murder at school in the past two years.

Why is this happening?

It's too early to tell in the Kinkel case. A close friend of his, Monica M., said that she'd seen Kinkel with a black eye recently, and Kinkel said he'd fallen. Kinkel was angry at his parents because of the Wednesday arrest and an incident earlier this year when Kinkel spread toilet paper over houses, for which his parents grounded him for the summer. However, Kinkel's wrath at his family doesn't yet explain his murders at Thurston High.

I know even less about the Onalaska case, not even the kids' identities because of their ages. The boy and girl had a romantic relationship. In a chilling preview of adult spousal abuse—too often fatal— he held a gun on his girlfriend, forced her to his home and shot himself before the girl's father got in. I don't know anything about the girl's condition except that she's alive and physically all right. Friends of both young people said that they were acting normally and hadn't mentioned anything wrong. But something was very, very wrong. At this point we don't know what, and we may never know.

We have only glimpses of why these things have happened. There are common denominators:

1. All of the killers grew up with firearms at home.
2. All of them learned how to use firearms at a very early age, some as young as 7 years old.
3. All of them committed murders at schools.
4. All of them came from families which were not wealthy.
5. All of them carefully, consciously knew what they were doing. Except for the Onalaska case, which we're still not sure of, all of the murders seem to have been carefully planned.
6. No remorse has yet been shown.
7. Except for the Onalaska case which we're not yet sure of, drugs and alcohol were not the factors.
8. None of the killers were involved in gang activity; none of them had prior arrests.
9. All of them are white males.
10. All of them used firearms, firing into crowded places.
11. All of the shootings have happened in suburbs or small towns.
12. No clear motive has yet been established.

In both the Paducah, KY and Moses Lake, WA shootings, the kids involved all admitted to being "influenced" by movies. If you verbally ask me I'll tell you, but for obvious reasons I will not quote the titles here.

Maybe it's cliche, but I think there's something in that. Even before we had TV, movies and mass media, American males have grown up learning how to use firearms while being drenched in a world view that tells them violence is the most acceptable solution of all. It's reinforced in our TV and movies. The reason Eastwood, Seagal, Lee, Norris, Van Damme, Schwarzenegger, Snipes, Stallone et. al. are multimillionaires is because we like to see them kick ass to solve problems, not sit down around a table and talk or sue in court. Last February, Americans grumbled about Kofi Annan's trip to Baghdad because he wanted to negotiate. Instead, America growled, we wish he'd get the hell out of the way so we could kick ass.

Never mind that the asses kicked, and lives lost, would be those of Iraqi civilians.

What does this show our young people?

Earlier today I was talking with a young Army wife. Her children attend elementary school in Lacey. She told me that there were always firearms in her home when she was growing up. Her father kept them locked, unloaded, with the ammo stored elsewhere. Her husband does the same thing. 'But I really think," she said, "it's about the parents. We knew to STAY AWAY from his guns, and we teach our kids the same way."

"In Europe it's a lot different than here. There isn't nearly as much violence on TV or in the movies, and I think that has a lot to do with it."

I don't have any children, nor do I own any guns. I think my co-worker has a solid point—it is about the parents. *I don't in any way blame victims for the crimes—I want that made clear NOW.* But we don't let kids even breathe on the car keys until they're 14-15 and they don't legally drive until 16. Since guns are specifically designed for killing—indeed, that this is their only purpose—why do some people teach children how to use them? It's true that a vehicle can be used as a weapon and too often is. But vehicles are designed to be modes of *transportation*. They can also be homes, bedrooms, kitchens, locker rooms, or storage units. All peaceful uses.

Why do some people teach children how to shoot before even considering teaching them how to drive or cook or clean?

And why didn't Kinkel's parents and teachers pay closer attention to him, and sound alarm? Why was he allowed to give a speech at school about making bombs? He was known to have violent tendencies. He practiced "bad" karate, tortured animals and took potshots at them. When he was expelled he told friends he'd probably "do something stupid" for revenge.

These are all loud, clear, textbook shouts for help and attention. Why didn't someone notice them?

Again, by no means do I mean to blame the victims. But like many people I'm trying to find a way to get a handle on this. Like everyone else I'm scared for my loved ones who are at school everyday. I want them to be safe, and I want to know what to look for. Maybe if I know, I can see it and help prevent tragedy.

Some good ideas are in place no, and more are coming. The first rule is the oldest: know your kids as well as possible. Be sensitive to them. Listen. And always be candid and courteous.

Many school, including Thurston County, have their own security personnel. They're usually known as "campus supervisors" and their whole job is to know what's going on. They work in teams of at least two, and at peak periods like arrival, lunches and dismissal are backed up by faculty—usually the wrestling and football coaches. In turn, local police departments have liaison officers at the high schools. It's routine for at least one officer to attend dances, games and other school events.

Kent has in place an anger management/violence prevention program for its elementary schools. Tacoma's schools have added armed shooter drills to the regular fire and earthquake drills. Metal detectors are routinely used at dances and events in Thurston County schools. These are all good steps, but more must be done.

We need to change the world view. Violence is NOT an acceptable solution to problems.

We need to stop teaching children how to use firearms.

We need to keep our firearms under maximum security.

We need our villages to raise our children.

In Islamabad, Nawaz Sharif's finger tightens on the nuclear trigger.

In Tel Aviv, a defiant Benjamin Netanyahu refuses to work the peace process.

In Washington D.C., at Arlington National Cemetery, the last notes of "Taps" fade away into the May night.

In Springfield, Oregon, a community mourns.

In Onalaska, a community mourns.

And in Thurston County, school officials and families prepare for another school day, with prayer: please, God, make it stop—and don't let it happen here. •

Even before we had TV, movies and mass media, American males have grown up learning how to use firearms while being drenched in a world view that tells them violence is the most acceptable solution of all.

Citizens Will Meet to Plan Action to Oppose Placement of Junior ROTC In Local Schools

Local citizens will meet Tuesday June 9th to plan how to stop a proposal to inject a military curriculum into thurston county's high schools. All parents, students, educators, and other concerned citizens are invited to meet at 7 pm in the East Meeting Room of the Olympia Timberland Library, 9th & Adams, in downtown Olympia.

The meeting is called in response to a veterans group's proposal to introduce Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) into all high schools throughout Thurston County. JROTC teaches militarism and provides military training directly in the schools.

JROTC arouses much public opposition for may reasons, including:

1. Curriculum, training, and activities are developed by the Pentagon with a strong military bias that distorts academic subjects and undermines civilian values.

2. Pentagon dominance undermines local control of our schools.

3. Schools must divert scarce funds away from higher priority courses, and military funding is often less than advertised.

4. JROTC training with guns, etc., causes new problems, risks and disabilities

In November 1985 the North Thurston School Board voted 4-1 against inserting JROTC into that school district. The school district's own research showed the proposal to be unwise, and considerable opposition from parents and other voters also persuaded the school board to reject the proposal.

The June 9th meeting is sponsored by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). The Olympia FOR has worked nonviolently since 1976 on a variety of peace and social justice issues.

For more information call Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093.

Pressure Treated Lumber

Poisonous Wood

Green Jean

For the past couple of years, I have been following a series of stories in Organic Gardening magazine. These stories are about the use of "pressure treated" lumber. Most of the pressure treated lumber available today is saturated with CCA — chromated copper arsenate — and yes, it's just as bad as it sounds. This combination "preserves " the wood because it makes it toxic to wood destroying fungi and insects. All three of these chemicals — copper, chromium and arsenic — are also highly toxic to plants and humans. This fact alone is enough for me to say without reservation, that CCA treated wood does not belong in a healthy, organic garden. No substance containing chemical pesticides should be any where near your garden, your children, your pets or yourself.

The tendency of CCA pressure treated wood to leach toxic arsenic into the soil and water make it an inappropriate material to use in our already threatened environment. Samples taken from beneath decks made of CCA treated wood contained up to 80 times more arsenic than surrounding soil, and as much as 35 times the legal limit for arsenic in the soil! Soil taken from underneath a 4 month old deck already contained an average of 3.5 times more arsenic than ordinary soil, and samples beneath an eight year old deck in Connecticut averaged 138 parts per million, where the legal limit for arsenic in residential soils is only ten parts per million.

There is no room for any more arsenic in our lives. The EPA is already considering stricter limits for arsenic in drinking water (50 parts per billion is the current limit), as mounting evidence indicates that consuming even very small amounts of arsenic is harmful to our health. The minimal risk level for arsenic is 18 micrograms per day. The average American adult currently consumes three times that much in our food and water. We are already being exposed to too much arsenic and the last thing we need is more of it leaching into our water supply and garden soil from the four billion board feet of CCA treated wood sold every year in the U.S.! We are already being exposed to too much arsenic and the last thing we need is more of it leaching into our water supply and garden soil from the four billion board feet of CCA treated wood sold every year in the U.S.!

A 1990 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission study of CCA wood playground equipment revealed that simply touching CCA treated wood (even when it's been sealed) can easily get arsenic onto your skin. The commission study estimated that two year old children can ingest as much as 2016 micrograms of arsenic per day by playing on CCA treated wood and then putting their hands in their mouths. The maximum safe limit for a 25 pound toddler is 3.4 micrograms a day. That means that they can easily ingest 600 times more than their safe daily limit.

The tendency of CCA pressure treated wood to leach toxic arsenic into the soil and water make it an inappropriate material to use in our already threatened environment.

It is long past time for the scientific evidence to overcome the lobbying efforts, consumer propaganda and just plain bad science of treated wood companies like Hickson, Osmose, Tolleson and ISK Biosciences (which stains its Kodiak brand CCA wood to look like "premium cedar"!) who have aggressively and unrelentingly continued to market this wood as safe for use in decks, gardens beds, water and playgrounds.

So, what should you do? First of all, make sure that there is none of this stuff in your garden. Remove any soil that has been in contact with treated wood. Under no circumstances should you ever burn CCA treated wood, because the fumes and smoke are extremely toxic. The only accepted method of disposal is in a landfill, and that's not a very good solution either. However, one of the Organic Gardening articles on this subject suggested that you take any treated lumber back to the people who sold it to you, leave it there and let it be their problem. Be sure that you wear protective clothing while handling this junk and wash all exposed skin and clothes that come into contact with it. If it is not possible for you to remove any contaminated soil, you should at least get it tested for safety. (Write to Timberleaf Soil Testing Services, 5569 State St., Albany, OH, 45710, for prices and details.) Chances are good that you should not grow anything, especially food, in that soil.

Next, don't build anything using treated wood. The splinters and construction dust caused by drilling and sawing CCA treated wood are both very toxic and can cause extreme reactions if inhaled, or if the splinters puncture your skin. Find alternate construction techniques. Use metal, concrete, recycled plastic lumber' or naturally rot-resistant woods like cedar, cypress or redwood.

To safely preserve untreated wood for decks, fences, picnic tables and other above ground uses, here is a recipe for a non-toxic wood preservative that has been shown to be highly effective, it protects wood for 20 years!

- 3 cups exterior varnish or 1 ˚ cups boiled linseed oil
- One ounce paraffin wax
- Enough solvent (mineral spirits, paint thinner or turpentine at room temperature) to make the total volume of the mix 1 full gallon

Melt the paraffin over water in a double boiler (do not heat over a direct flame!). Off to the side stir the solvent vigorously, then slowly poor in the melted paraffin. Be sure to keep all flammable liquids away from open flames! Add the varnish or linseed oil and continue to stir thoroughly. That's it! Apply by dipping the regular untreated lumber into the mixture for three minutes or brush on a heavy application. The wood can be painted when it's thoroughly dry.

Instead of treated lumber you should use wood that is naturally rot-resistant, such as cedar, cypress or redwood. But there's one alternative that many can simply grow: black locust lumber. This is a native American tree that produces naturally rot-resistant lumber that can last for 80 years or longer.

The strength and durability of black locust make it highly valued in Europe and parts of Asia. In Hungary they even grow different strains for lumber, telephone poles, honey production, firewood and leaf production to feed pigs and chickens. Typically, no U.S. lumber companies currently cultivate this tree and it is rarely available for purchase. These fast growing trees are legumes, and thus produce their own plant-feeding nitrogen from the air with the help of special "nitrogen-fixing" bacteria that colonize the trees roots, so they require no human applied fertilizer. And they are also very tolerant of poor soils and drought.

Sound like a great native tree to grow? To protect our precious soils and water from the chromium, copper and arsenic in pressure treated wood you can grow your own stand of rot-resistant, self-feeding, straight-growing, outdoor wood use tree! Send five dollars to Carolyn Touryniere, P. O. Box 321, Jacksonville, NY, 14854, and she'll send you 12 locust seeds and a four page instruction/information packet.

...write to the EPA and urge them to ban the use of CCA wood for decks, gardens, marine use and playground equipment.

The other thing you can do is write to the EPA and urge them to ban the use of CCA wood for decks, gardens, marine use and playground equipment. Send your letter to Ms. Carol Browner, Administrator, U.S. EPA, 410 M St. SW/1101, Washington, D.C. 20411.

If you just want to read more about this situation, drop me a line and I can give you plenty of places to get the real dirt on the production and use of this kind of poisonous wood. Jean says, be Green, don't use pressure treated wood! 4222 Harmony Lane SE Iowa City, IA 52240-9385 and 319/337-7722 or JTGardens@aol.com •

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Developing Prison Pen-Pals

Inside-Outside

Inside-Outside is a Dutch foundation which tries to find pen-pals for inmates in the United States. Often inmates have little or no contact with the world "outside", this goes especially for the death row inmates. Correspondence with a free person creates a way for them to communicate with the outside world. It provides a window for them to look out through.

Inside-Outside is run by 5 volunteers. At the moment we have almost 1500 participants on the "outside", mainly in the Netherlands and Belgium. We have around 4000 addresses of inmates, of whom over 450 are on death row. Inside-Outside is an independent organization, which means that it is not affiliated with any other organization or church. Inside-Outside does not receive any financial support from (charity) funds. Since the inmates have no access to Internet or E-mail the correspondence takes place via regular mail.

A Little Background on Life in Prison

Life inside a US prison is tough, often there's psychological and physical violence. The food is mostly bad and the possibilities for education and recreation are getting less all the time. Once again we're not saying that people who commit crimes shouldn't be punished. Of course they should! But if locking offenders in a cage for a definite time will make them better people, that is something one could argue about. If killing them is a solution.... We don't think so. Everyone is entitled to his/her own opinion. Our opinion is that there's more to a person than the mistakes he/she made or the crime he/she committed.

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Why Would Anyone Write to a Person in Prison?

Mail is important. Many people that end up in prison lose contact with the outside world. Family and friends forget them quickly and visits and mail become rare. In such a situation it can be very important to have a pen-pal. Knowing that there's someone who's thinking about you, who cares enough to write regularly can make a big difference.

How Do We Work?

Inside-Outside tries to match people who are around the same age and, when possible, who have a hobby in common. Of course this does not mean that we can find always you the perfect pen-pal. If it appears after a couple of letters that you really can't get along with the inmate who's address you received from us, drop us a line and we'll see if we can match you up with someone else.

How Can You Join Inside-Outside?

- Before you decide to join Inside-Outside, make sure you have read all our information.
- You must be at least 18 years old before you can correspond with a US prisoner through Inside-Outside.
- Participation is free for the inmates, The "outside" participants pay a yearly contribution of Hfl 22,50 (in the Netherlands) or US$ 15 (for foreign participants). Foreign subscribers: please send the amount in US$ banknotes, since the Dutch banks have difficulties with foreign money orders. For this amount you receive the number of addresses you requested (within reason), service if you have a problem or questions and, of course, our on-line Newsletter. Dutch participants receive the newsletter by regular mail. The newsletter is published four times a year.

Joining Inside-Outside is at your own risk. Don't forget that you will be writing a criminal. Sometimes an inmate starts writing romantic letters or asks for money. In such a case be honest to yourself and to the inmate. Often it is sufficient to tell the inmate that this is not what you want, without offending him/her.

In Inside-Outside's history it has never happened that an inmate who was released came to visit his/her pen-pal uninvited. So far though we've mainly provided addresses of inmates to people in Europe. We do not know how easily a thing like this could happen if you live in the USA.

This sounds all very serious, but it should be mentioned. Usually though your pen-pal will be someone who has been very lonely and is very glad to receive your letters. Most inmates do write back very quickly. You will discover that the inmate is as good a friend to you as you are to him/her. We really hope you will decide to join us and gain a friend.

It is our experience that a pen friendship with an inmate, whether on death row or not, can be a real thing. Important for both the inmate and the person on the outside.

If you have questions you can contact us at e-mail edith@inside.iaf.nl or by mail at Inside-Outside, P.O. Box 1599,9701 BN Groningen, The Netherlands.

Inside-Outside web page address is www.noord.bart.nl/~lof/index.html

Native Prisoner Penpal List of Native prisoners incarcerated in prisons throughout the U.S. and Canada. http://brooks.simplenet.com/penpal7.hts

Out-Side-In United Kingdom based organization offers a pen friend service for gay inmates worldwide. http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~bobob/osindex.htm •

Books to Prisoners June Events

- Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm above Bulldog News, 116 E. 4th, Olympia. *Training takes about 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime Bulldog is open.*
- **Look for us at Super Saturday!**
- **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month (June 21th), 3 pm at Liberation Cafe 116 E. 4th Ave, Oly.
- Turn in Bayview and Ralph's grocery receipts! (dated Oct 97 to present) B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.
- ***Thank you to all who submitted receipts!***
- **Save the UPC code from Western Family Products** and send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

***W.I.P.* seeks articles, artwork (black and white is best) from those in prison. Please send submissions to:**

Works In Progress,
PO Box 295,
Olympia WA 98507-0295

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generosity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

English, Spanish/English, Southeast Asian dictionaries, thesaurus, new almanacs, and GED books.

Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

- Any other good books
- Stamps and stamp money
- Money for tape, wrapping paper, copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News.

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Address: Books to Prisoners c/o Liberation Cafe, 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Telephone: (360) 352-7336

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:

Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

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Events, Announcements, Etc.

Local's opposition to Broadous is particularly striking in light of the Local's endorsement of her candidacy in 1994.

For further information contact: Joe Nilsson, Local 443 Political Action Committee Chair (360) 786-0533

Organizing Against Domestic Violence

The Coalition for Human Dignity, a grassroots group organizing against domestic violence, meets the **1st and 3rd Sunday at 5 pm at the Liberation Cafe.** We will be planning a concert and vigil on July 4th at Sylvester Park.

For info call 754-4336.

Tumwater MAI Resolution

In a six to one vote the Tumwater City Council became the fourth jurisdiction in the nation to pass a resolution against the MAI! The meeting was a little different than Olympia's as each of the council members made a statement prior to the vote. We had about eight supporters in attendance - we were not asked to speak.

The Olympian however did not see fit to report on this victory. I guess after the Olympia vote, these resolutions are not considered to be news anymore.

Lacey will hopefully be considering such a resolution next month.

Spring 1998 Community Grant Recipients

The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County pleased to announced the following groups and individuals were recipients in our Spring 1998 Grant Cycle:

Community Build-A-Bike Program: $200, Towards start-up for a youth bicycle recycling program.

TOGETHER! (Normandy Manor Neighborhood Center): $420, For parent trainers to lead a Parent/Toddler Time workshops. These workshop help young parents cope with their toddlers.

Leadership Thurston County - Equity Team: $200, Towards the printing cost for a resource directory for teens (Teen Access Guide).

Olympia Eastside Community Gardens: $200, Towards the cost of building a equipment storage shed at the community garden site.

CROW Mural Project: $200, Towards material cost for a public art project involving people with disabilities.

South Sound MAI Not!: $250, To cover printing and postage in an effort to raise public awareness and organize for the passage of local MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment) "free zone" resolutions.

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition: $450, To cover start-up cost for a local initiated South Sound WROC chapter.

Carnegie Group/SPEECH: $190, Towards organizing a series of Thurston County Neighborhood Meetings on growth, development & quality of life issues.

Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity: $350, Towards organizing local opposition to Initiative 200.

With the completion of the Spring 1998 Grant Cycle, the Community Sustaining Fund has returned $40,842 to our community in the form of awards to local activist since the organization's founding in 1987. Twice a year the Community Sustaining Fund awards money to local groups and individuals engaged in social justice, environmental protection and community building projects. The Community Sustaining Fund tends to award funds for startup cost of projects that might otherwise go unfunded, but with the expectation that these projects will become self sustaining. Grant funds are derived from contributing individuals and businesses. Special thanks goes to the Olympia Food Co-op for their ongoing support, as well as those co-op shoppers who round up on their purchases. Thanks to everyone for continuing to "roundup" for social change. Activist and community members can look forward to the announcement of our Fall 1998 grant cycle September. The Community Sustaining Fund also wishes to thank all of the businesses and community members that supported our annual raffle. The Community Sustaining Fund is always looking to expand and diversify our board of directors.

Olympia Pride `98 Events

Sunday, June 14 - *Community Potluck and Volleyball, hosted* by the Gay Men's Social network at Thurston County's Burfoot Park. Bring a potluck item to share (however, no barbecue facilities will be provided this year) and nonalcoholic beverages. Dessert, tableware, and ice will be provided. Gather at the main shelter at noon and eat at 2 pm.

Sunday, June 14 - *Pride Week Service*, hosted by the Olympia Unitarian Universalist congregation, beginning at 9:30 am (located at 220 East End Street, NW, on Olympia's west side).

Tuesday, June 16 - *Pride Party*, hosted by St. Michael's GLBT Discussion Group, beginning at 7 pm at 3121 French Road, NW, on Olympia's west side. Bring finger food to share and the beverage of your choice. Come enjoy a relaxing evening. (Directions: from Harrison, take West Bay Drive and continue north up the hill to Crestline, and then to French Road. For information, call 866-0748.)

Saturday, June 20 - *Pride March and Rally*, beginning at the Capitol Building steps at 11 am and ending with a rally, music, and festival in Sylvester Park that will last throughout the afternoon. (Sponsored by Capital City Pride.)

Saturday, June 20 - *Barbecue Potluck*, hosted by Stonewall Youth from 4 pm to 7 pm in Olympia's Priest Point Park. This is an alcohol and drug-free event.

Saturday, June 20 - *Gay dollar Days* at a local retailer, between 3 pm and 5 pm. Show a local business—to be announced during the afternoon rally—that we are their customers and we spend our hard-earned money in their store(s). Visibility materials will be distributed during the rally.

Saturday, June 20 - *Pride Dance* capping pride day with an all-out party at Niki's beginning at 9 pm on their "no-smoking Saturday night." (held as a benefit for Capital City Pride)

Sunday, June 21 - Tentative - *Queer KAOS*, beginning with featured programs throughout the week of June 15 and culminating in a full Sunday of programming for the queer community on KAOS Radio (89.3 FM)

Sunday, June 21 - *Special Pride Week Worship Service*, hosted by the Eternal Light Metropolitan Community Church, at 7 pm in the Friends Meeting House, 219 B Street in Tumwater.

13 More Guards Disciplined at Pennsylvania Prison as Scandal Grows

C. Clark Kissinger - May 20, 1998

Thirteen more guards at SCI Greene have been disciplined, including two more guards fired. This brings to 24 the number of guards punished for acts of violence against prisoners in the Restricted Housing Unit, where the internationally recognized political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is held.

42 of the almost 400 guards have been under investigation since last fall when charges made by prisoners, the families of prisoners, and prison employees began to force the scandal into the open.

With the discharge of two more guards in the newly announced punishments, the union representing the accused guards has come up that most tired of excuses: "We were only following orders!"

"If we were doing wrong in procedure, we should have been told about this four years ago," said William Herbert, head of the guards union.

Meanwhile state prison officials said they had videotapes of 36 incidents of guards mistreating prisoners, some showing instances of "unnecessary force."

Appealing for public sympathy — and not getting much — Herbert further complained that "The last few weeks have been rough. You go to the store and people say, 'Hey, how many'd you beat today?'"

Good question! Apparently the tapes only show the pushing and shoving of prisoners while being transferred between units, not what went on after they were in a cell. In one case, the aunt of a prisoner complained to state officials that her nephew was beaten in a cell while handcuffed.

The videotapes in question have now been turned over to the country District Attorney for possible criminal action.

Complaints against the prison guards have not been limited to those coming from prisoners and their families. One outspoken critic has been Attorney Grisel Ybarra. Ms. Ybarra told this reporter that she has been in many federal maximum security prisons, but she has never experienced treatment like that at Greene.

Despite proof that she is a member of the bar, prison officials called her a "Spic," and wanted to read all the legal papers she was bringing into the prison for a conference with her client who was a prisoner there. She was told by one guard that he could read anything he wanted to in a prisoner's cell, including the prisoners confidential correspondence with his attorney. In a further demeaning act, guards forced her to remove her bra, claiming that the metal stays would set off the metal detectors. Guards also stuck a small vacuum cleaner like device up to her breasts claiming that it was part of the new drug detection equipment used on all visitors. •

Workshop to Empower Grassroots Activists

The public is invited to a workshop on "empowering Grassroots Activists" on Tuesday June 23 from 7 to 9:30 pm in the East Meeting Room of the Olympia timberland Library, 9th and Adams, in downtown Olympia.

Longtime peace activist Glen Anderson will facilitate the workshop to provide fresh approaches to grassroots organizing, and to stimulate and encourage local activists. The workshop is free and useful for experienced organizers and novices alike.

Tuesday June 23

While pre-registration is not necessary, it would be good to call 491-9093 by June 19 to help Glen prepare activities and resources for the right number of participants.

The workshop is sponsored by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). The Olympia FOR has worked nonviolently since 1976 on a variety of peace and social justice issues. It is the local affiliate of a broadly interfaith, international pacifist organization founded in 1914. For more information call (360) 491-9093.

Maintain in Downtown

The weather is getting warm, the sidewalks and benches are filling up, and already folks are bumping elbows and talking wise to each other. Who needs that shit. Act nice. And if you're out of control, stay home and freak there. We all got enough melodramas in our lives. We don't need yours.

Hang. Be cool. To get respect, you gotta show it, ya know.

We're all in this together.

- Frank Hoffman

WORKS IN PROGRESS

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

FREE

JUNE 1998

photo by hali panneton

1 Protecting Native Sovereignty

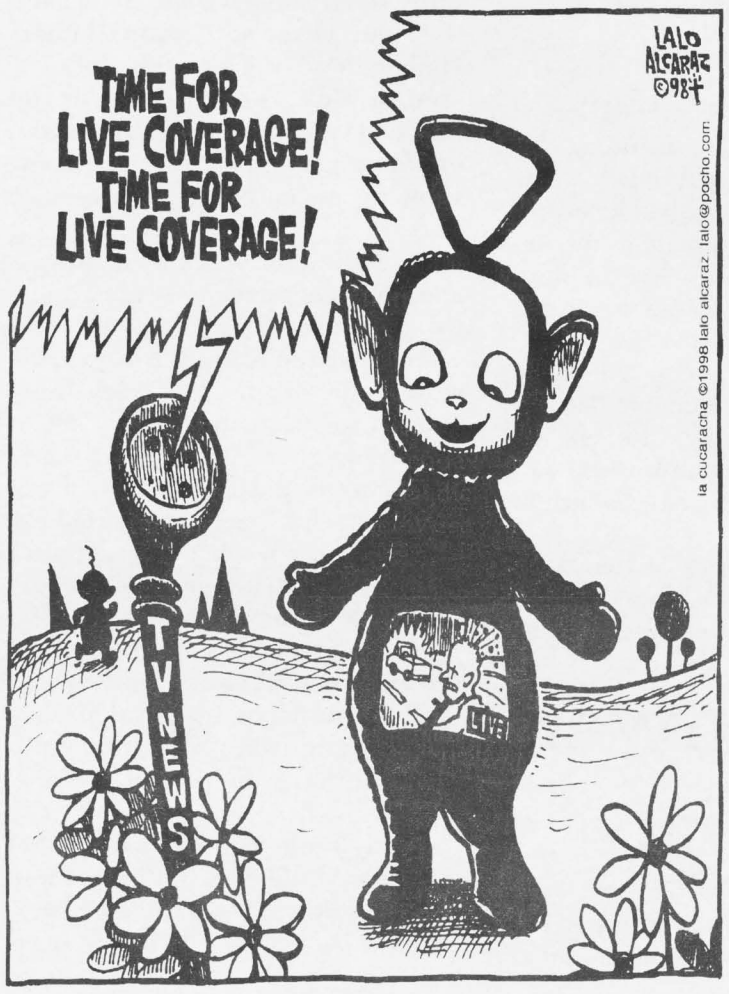
4 Along the Color Line
Triumph of Capitalism?
&
Color-Coded Health Care

6 The Capitalist Centralization Of Power

8 Oppose Junior ROTC In Lacey Schools

9 Poisonous Wood

10 Prison Pen-Pals



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"WE'RE KILLING HIM AS A DETERANT SO OTHER 10 YEAR OLDS WON'T KILL!"
YELLOW PAGES
MEANWHILE...
"AIN'T NO WHERE TO KEEP ME AMMO. I'LL JUST STORE IT IN THE CRIB."
'Goo! Goo!'

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